RESEARCH ARTICLE

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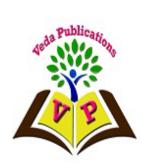# USAGE OF ICT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING & LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

Technology's role and use as a tool for teaching the English language is growing as educators recognize its ability to create both independent and collaborative learning environments in which students can learn English with ease. In our country, various approaches and methods are used to teach English and develop English language skills. However, the majority of them are traditional, less interesting, ineffective, and less motivating. As a result, it is necessary to employ modern approaches and ICT (Information and Communication Technology) tools to improve understanding and acquisition of fundamental skills, i.e. Students' LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing) of the English language at the school level. ICT has a lot to offer both teachers and students in terms of expanding their vocabulary and improving their English language skills. Nowadays, ICT tools and approaches are widely used due to their convenience, omnipresence, effectiveness, and low cost. CAL (Computer Assisted Learning), CALA (Computer Assisted Language Assessment), CALI (Computer Assisted Language Instruction), CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning), Blogs, Wiki, e-mail facility, Digital libraries, multimedia, mobile learning, MOOCs, Virtual classrooms, and so on are some of these approaches, facilities, and tools. These facilities have paved the way for individualized learning and given learners the freedom to learn whenever and wherever they want, according to their needs and convenience. Technology has become a tool for making learners innovative as well as a source of motivation for learners to learn. To compete with these native English speakers.

Keywords: *ICT, Technology, Language, ELT, ESL, etc.*

INTRODUCTION

Globalization has caused enormous changes in all aspects of life, from eating habits to working habits. We have transitioned from our ancient heritage Gurukula education system to a modern, technologically advanced university education system. Today, education has evolved into an all-encompassing process that encompasses nearly all aspects of life—social, cultural, political, economic, national, and so on. We live in an era of information and communication technology (ICT), which has made information transmission and dissemination more reliable and simpler. The Indian education system aspires to impart the overall development of individuals and societies, as well as to enable the teaching-learning community to compete in the global market with sustainable growth and development. Our educational system is built around teaching-learning and evaluation. ICT is an unavoidable marker and component of any educational institution's strategy that seeks to cater to the teachers-students diversity and achieve smooth/fair administration to produce potential results from the institution.

The use of ICT in the teaching-learning process is an urgent need. In his or her teaching-learning process, the teacher is expected to be both traditional and modern/innovative. The teacher must be sufficiently prepared to use information and communication technology (ICT). Technologies in the twenty-first century are truly communicative and interactive, but implementation is low in the language classroom. When attempting to bring about innovation in the educational field, one must consider audio-visual aids and their widespread use in education.

THE POWER OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

We are both teaching and learning English, but why do we want to teach English over other foreign languages? The given response is that English is the most widely spoken language on the planet. It is difficult to estimate the number of English speakers. However, there are more than 350,000,000 native English speakers and more than 400,000,000 English as second or foreign language speakers, according to estimates. English Language Teaching (ELT) is becoming increasingly important as a result of advances in modern communication technologies and inventions.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN ELT

Nowadays, teachers of English around the world prefer some form of communicative teaching and learning, rather than the traditional methods of ELT which dominate the teacher-centered approach and neglect the student" communication skills. The teacher-centered approach depends mainly on the learner's memory and did not care about the authentic use of language. Although a successful EFL teacher is not necessarily restricted to one method or another, the ICTs have changed the pace of teaching strategies to suit the goals of his materials and the needs of his students. On the other hand, ICTs have given students, many opportunities to practice English in and out of the classroom. With the help of modern technologies, they have time and freedom to understand, reflect and analyze what has been exposed to. Moreover, the ICTs put forward an influential base for efficient education. Now, we need modern technologies for a better-blended method of delivery to create apt teaching techniques to enhance the process of learning the English language.

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ICTs are very motivating because they help learners to learn the language which is carefully designed to meet the prescribed goals.

MULTIMEDIA

Multimedia has many different definitions. Some academics define multimedia as devices that combine text and images. The use of multimedia in the learning and teaching of English allows the teacher to bring almost real-life situations into the classroom. Teachers of English in large classes can use multimedia in a variety of ways. There are literature books, particularly Shakespeare plays, that have videodiscs that English Literature teachers use to supplement their lessons. The problem with using these technologies is that they are not only difficult to obtain, but many teachers have little knowledge of how to use them. Learners are forced to internalize more than one thing at a time by combining texts, images, sound, and video in one device.

UTILIZING THE WEBSITE FOR TEACHING ENGLISH

A website, as internet technology, is an important tool that teachers can use to facilitate the teaching and learning of English in a large class setting. It offers numerous opportunities for teaching and learning. For example, the teacher can combine offline and online teachings to overcome some of the challenges of large-scale teaching and learning. Teachers of English classes can use the website for a variety of purposes to aid in the teaching and learning of the English language. The teacher can make the material available on his website for students to download and use in class. However, students should be given two or three days before the lesson to download the materials. Texts for reading, such as novels, plays, and poems, or samples of writing tasks, such as letters, essays, memorandums, or emails, may be included in website materials for teaching English.

ADVANTAGES OF ICT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

The use of ICT improves foreign language teaching and learning.

1. We can obtain the necessary information in a fraction of a second.
2. E-learning helps learners become more innovative.
3. ICT provides students with information that will help them compete in today's competitive world.
4. English lessons that incorporate multimedia applications can provide powerful motivation and exciting new ways for bored students to learn.
5. ICT can encourage students and teachers to use current and authentic resources.
6. ICT improves learner interaction, verbalization, and participation in group collaborative learning.
7. Students can learn on their own.
8. A pictorial description is available with ICT.

DISADVANTAGES OF ICT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

1. Due to the use of ICT in language learning, students have a short attention span.
2. Human interaction is not possible with online learning.
3. Students may open or log on to unneeded websites to play games or watch movies, for example.
4. A high level of self-discipline and self-direction is required.

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5. To use ICT tools in teaching and learning, good infrastructure and trained personnel are required.

6. Learners are communicating with one another.

7. The teacher is merely a facilitator.

CONCLUSION

The use of ICT broadens the scope of instruction. It provides high-quality learning materials while encouraging student autonomy. The advancement of ICT, such as language labs, videos, satellite broadcasts, videoconferencing, and web seminars, has contributed to the richness and quality of education both on and off campus. It drew on several academic perspectives to establish that ICTs are indispensable tools for facilitating English language teaching and learning. Information and communication technologies include a variety of devices that the teacher can use to facilitate delivery, learning activities, and evaluation of a lesson. Our schools and universities should be equipped with computers and internet services, which serve as tools for language learning and contribute to various aspects of educational development and effective learning.

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